

Dear all

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Keep up-to-date with COVID-19 funding calls and resources

NIHR | Research Design Service London

Our friends at RDS London have put together a really useful webpage, which is updated frequently with the latest funding calls and resources for researchers looking at COVID-19.

Visit the website [here](#).

RDS WM post award support-we are here to help

If you are conducting a research project for which you received funding from an open, national, peer-reviewed funding scheme and are currently experiencing problems - e.g. due to COVID 19 and the impact lockdown has had on many studies - the RDS can assist you with problems you may be having relating to issues of research design. We can provide assistance whether or not you had RDS support when submitting your study for funding. Do feel free to contact us, either to your local hub or by sending a general support request via our [website](#)

Please note, however, that if you need advice that is *not* to do with research design – e.g. relating to research governance, funding, and logistical issues – this is probably best sought elsewhere, e.g. a Research and Development Department in your organization or the [NIHR Clinical Research Network](#) (CRN).

MRHA Guidance: Clinical trials applications for Coronavirus



The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is ready to prioritise and provide any assistance for clinical trials applications submitted for COVID-19. The clinical trials unit have set up a specific mailbox for COVID-19 related trial activity; Covid.clinicaltrials@mhra.gov.uk. This must be used instead of the previously used clinical trial helpline email. In this way COVID-19 related queries and questions will be monitored and responded to by a dedicated COVID-19 team as a priority.

Other aspects of this guidance include:

- Prioritising COVID-19 assessments
- Submitting COVID-19 applications
- Naming your study
- Participating in COVID-19 clinical trials

Read the guidance [here](#)



NIHR's annual Research for Social Care call funds over £2 million of new social care research

The NIHR's **Research for Social Care** call (RfSC) has funded £2.19 million of new research into adult social care, as part of NIHR's commitment to improving social care through high quality evidence and building capacity for research in this field.

Eight new projects have been funded, ranging from research into parenting support for young fathers in prison to investigating better ways to identify people who may have problems with gambling. The projects are also diverse in their methods, and together will generate evidence to improve, expand and strengthen the way adult social care is delivered for users of care services, carers and the public.

Find out more [here](#)

At the beginning of October this year, our colleagues in RDS South Central hosted an online event for those thinking of applying to the RfSC call. Videos of the presentations are available on their [RDS SC YouTube page](#)

Latest NIHR funding calls

NIHR: Research into the longer term effects of COVID-19 in non-hospitalised individuals

Details: The NIHR and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has launched a joint research call to fund ambitious and comprehensive research into the longer term physical and mental effects of COVID-19.

There is now increasing medical evidence showing that a small but significant minority of people who contract and survive COVID-19 report chronic symptoms ranging from breathlessness, chronic fatigue, 'brain fog', anxiety and stress for months after initially falling ill. These ongoing problems, commonly termed 'Long COVID', may be experienced by patients regardless of how severe their COVID-19 infection was and irrespective of whether they were hospitalised.

The NIHR and UKRI have jointly funded major studies to characterise acute and longer term disease in hospitalised patients, for example the UK-wide ISARIC-4C and Post hospitalisation COVID-19 (PHOSP-COVID) study.

Deadline for proposals: 9th December 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation

Details: The fourth call of the Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) programme will fund research on unintentional injuries, and urgent and emergency care, in low and middle income countries (LMICs).

The RIGHT programme funds interdisciplinary applied health research on areas of unmet need where a strategic and targeted investment can result in a transformative impact. The programme aims to strengthen capacity for research and boost knowledge exchange through funding equitable partnerships between researchers in the UK and those in LMICs that are eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding.

RIGHT call 4 will award funding to address the global burden of unintentional injuries (including but not limited to road traffic accidents, falls, burns and drowning), and urgent and emergency care. This funding opportunity is open to lead applicants from UK or LMIC institutions.

Deadline for submitting mandatory Intent to Submit form: 1pm on 10 February 2021.

Deadline for proposals: 10th March 2021

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR: PHR Programme – New commissioned calls

Details: The Public Health Research (PHR) Programme funds research to generate evidence to inform the delivery of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health.

The PHR Programme accepting stage 1 applications to their commissioned workstream for the following topics:

- [20/119 Public health interventions led by or involving the police](#)
- [20/120 Food taxes and subsidies](#)
- [20/121 Indoor air quality](#)
- [20/122 Multi-agency approaches to tackling illicit tobacco](#)

Deadline for proposals: 30th March 2021

Find out more [here](#)

RDS West Midlands can offer free expert support and advice on all aspects of designing and developing applications for NIHR funding and other peer reviewed funding bodies– please complete our online Request for Support form to gain access to our advice.

NIHR Funding deadlines calendar

For an overview of the year's NIHR calls and ongoing opportunities, please view the online calendar: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/funding-opportunities/>

Funding calls from other bodies

MRC: Experimental medicine grants

Details: Experimental medicine grants support research into the causes, progression and treatment of human disease through experimental intervention in humans. Proposals should be for academically-led experimental medicine projects, conducted in humans, based around a clearly articulated gap in understanding of human pathophysiology, with a clear path to clinical impact. The grants will produce new mechanistic insights, identifying opportunities to modify disease pathways and enabling novel therapeutic or diagnostic approaches for future development. All disease areas and interventions are welcomed by the panel.

The application must involve an experimental intervention or challenge in humans, perturbing the system to explore disease mechanism. The challenge may be, but is not limited to:

- pharmacological
- immunological
- physiological
- psychological
- infectious

Deadline for proposals: 17th December 2020

Find out more [here](#)

The Urology Foundation: Smaller research projects fund

Details: The Urology Foundation is dedicated to beating all urology diseases through cutting-edge research and leading education and training to ensure that fewer lives will be devastated.

TUF smaller research awards support nurse-led and/or Clinician-led patient projects for patient benefit that seek to improve services and treatments and communications with patients and carers. The outcomes of the study must be measured and evaluated and demonstrate improved care and well-being of patients.

Deadline for proposals: 31st May 2021

Find out more [here](#)

The Health Foundation: Economies for Healthier Lives

Details: Economies for Healthier Lives is a new funding programme to strengthen relationships between economic development and health. Good health has social and economic value for individuals, society and the economy. It is an enabler of the prosperous and flourishing societies that governments strive to achieve. People's health relies not only on health care, but also on their economic circumstances – income, wealth, whether they have a job, and the type of work they do.

Through this programme, the Health Foundation will support local and regional partnerships to implement some of the ideas in that report by integrating economic development activity with work to improve health and/or reduce health inequalities.

Deadline for proposals: 15th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Royal College of Surgeons of England: Pump priming grants

Details: The Royal College of Surgeons of England is offering a limited number of awards of up to £10,000 to newly appointed consultants, senior lecturers and post-doctoral trainees

(appointed since 2015) in surgery who are working at hospitals and universities within the UK. The aim of the awards is to give assistance to such surgeons in the early stages of their independent research careers. Awards may be used, amongst other things, for small items of equipment, for consumables or for technical assistance.

All applicants must be members or fellows of The Royal College of Surgeons of England. Applicants must be consultants, senior lecturers or post-doctoral trainees (appointed since 2015) working in surgery in the UK.

Deadline for proposals: 8th December 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Patient and Public Involvement

Help the NIHR update its patient and public involvement resources

The new NIHR Centre for Engagement and Dissemination (CED), which launched on April 1st 2020, aims to make research relevant, responsive to communities and ready to use. The Centre builds on the work of the previous NIHR Dissemination Centre and NIHR INVOLVE, bringing their two functions together and allowing links between them that previously hadn't been explored.

As INVOLVE no longer exists, and in light of the new Centre's remit, the INVOLVE website will eventually be retired but its key resources retained and developed. The Centre has launched a survey to gain input from researchers, the public and PPI leads on which resources should be prioritised. They are not planning to delete resources which aren't prioritised, but are seeking to identify what needs to be done first as many guidance documents and policies need updating. The survey will close on 20th November 2020.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

Support and advice is available from the CRN WM Study Support Service Team for any study that is potentially eligible or applying for CRN Support. This includes providing cost attribution advice to support researchers in completing their grant applications and authorising the Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT), navigating the approvals process, accessing training provided by the Network, identifying and supporting the management of excess treatment costs, and can highlight further support within the Network to support study set up and delivery to time and target. Once open to recruitment, we will stay in contact and continue to support optimisation of recruitment to your study. Please note that prioritisation of support will be for nationally prioritised COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research studies.

For more information please contact: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/>

Applying for NIHR funding? Access free advice and support from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service West Midlands

Our multi-disciplinary team can offer advice on the key ingredients in a successful health or social care research proposal, including:

- Statistics and health economics
- Qualitative methodology
- Support on involving patients and public in research, identified by the NIHR as a critical component in funding applications
- Peer review of draft grant applications before submission.

Find out more about how RDS West Midlands could help you and your team at <http://www.rds-wm.nihr.ac.uk/>

***We have sent you this email because we believe it may be of interest to you, if you do not wish to receive future emails from us please email me by return at k.biddle@bham.ac.uk and I will remove you from my contact list.**